

HCS SB 148 -- SALVAGE MOTOR VEHICLES

This bill specifies that the assessed valuation of a tractor or trailer used in interstate commerce must be apportioned to Missouri based on the ratio of miles traveled in this state to the miles traveled in interstate commerce during the preceding tax year or on the basis of the most recent annual mileage figures available.

The Director of the Department of Revenue is allowed to issue a temporary permit to operate a salvage vehicle for the sole purpose of transporting a salvage motor vehicle to the nearest State Highway Patrol inspection station if he or she purchases the required motor vehicle examination form that is required to be completed and provides satisfactory evidence that the vehicle has passed the inspection.

Currently, when an insurer purchases a vehicle that is currently titled in Missouri through the claims adjustment process for which he or she is unable to obtain a negotiable title, the insurer must make two written attempts to obtain the certificate of title and provide the Department of Revenue with evidence that the letters were delivered when applying for a salvage certificate title or junking certificate. The bill requires the insurer to provide the department with evidence that the letters were sent. The department director must notify the insurer of any additional owner or lienholder he or she identifies, and the insurer must notify the additional owner or lienholder of its intent to obtain title.

The bill allows an insurer that purchases a vehicle or trailer subject to a lien through the claims adjustment process to apply for a salvage title or junking certificate without obtaining a lien release. The insurer may request a letter of guarantee from the lienholder containing a description of the vehicle and indicating the amount of the lien from each lienholder and may pay the amount indicated within 10 days of receipt of the letter. The insurer may then submit proof of the payment, a copy of each letter of guarantee, and the title for the vehicle or trailer to the department which must accept the documents in lieu of a lien release and process the insurer's application.